

**United States Bankruptcy Court
District of Rhode Island**

Minutes of September 26, 2001 Meeting of the Attorney Advisory Committee

The sixth meeting of the Bankruptcy Court's Attorney Advisory Committee was held at the Clerk's Office on Wednesday, September 26, 2001 at 3:30 p.m.

Attendance: The following members were in attendance:

Patricia Antonelli
Mark Buckley
John Fitzgerald
Peter Furness
Lisa Geremia
Robert Huseby
Christopher Lefebvre
Charles Pisaturo
Tom Quinn

Court Personnel:

Susan Thurston
Ann McGloshen (in Michelle Torres' absence)

Absent: David Reilly.

Meeting Discussion:

The meeting was called to order by Susan Thurston, Clerk of Court. Susan took the opportunity of introducing John Fitzgerald, Assistant U.S. Trustee. John is filling the vacancy created by the departure of Sheryl Serrezze as Assistant UST.

The minutes of the June 14 meeting were approved.

The first item discussed was the proposed amendments to the Local Rules and Forms. Each of the proposed rules and forms were reviewed and valuable discussion and feedback received. Several items will be presented to the Bankruptcy Judge for his consideration from the committee. In addition, members were advised to submit written comments to the proposed changes during the public notice and comment period where additional feedback is desired.

The second agenda item discussed was the upcoming Food for Thought seminars to be conducted with the Bar Association. Susan gave an update from Nancy Healy that over 70 people have already signed up for the first session to be held on October 2nd. Due to the recent changes in the adversary proceeding procedures, Susan received an extension of time to submit the materials for the first session

and will be coordinating with Tom the delivery of the program. A review of the four scheduled sessions was given. *Since the meeting, the first session was conducted and was extremely well attended. Jonathan Calianos, career law clerk to Judge Votolato, filled in for Tom Quinn and reviewed the new form of discovery plan with the attendees.*

Next, Susan advised that the court's web-site training for the Bar and support staff was going very well (two classes completed) and that training classes are now being booked into December. She indicated that each class is approximately one and one-half hours in duration and can accommodate 15 participants.

The discussion then turned to the court's implementation schedule for the next case management system: CM/ECF. The Rhode Island Bankruptcy Court is scheduled for Wave 8 implementation. Applicable dates are: pre-implementation -- March 2002; the implementation site team visit -- June 2002, and the target live date -- December 2002. In all likelihood, this committee will be very active in the next year in providing feedback and advice on how to proceed as to the portions of the implementation directly affecting the Bar, such as local rule changes and training.

Susan reported on the building security enhancements instituted since the September 11 attack:

- # The U.S Postal Service mail box has been removed from the outside of the building;
- # The Court's Overnight Depository Box has been permanently taken out of service by an Emergency Order entered by Judge Votolato;
- # The discontinuance of the use of rear door entry/exit;
- # No parking zones in the immediate area of the building (front and rear); and
- # Closer identification check of employees and better scrutiny of visitors to the building, to name a few.

The next topic of discussion was the personnel changes within the Clerk's Office. Susan stated that a new employee was being hired for the automation department, to replace an employee that was dismissed earlier this year. Due to downsizing, one case manager would be leaving at the end of the fiscal year.

Under New Business:

- # A hand-out from "Best Case Solutions" was distributed which explained the new upload system to be available with CM/ECF;
- # John Rao discussed the National Consumer Law Center's informational brochures available through his office; and
- # John Fitzgerald reported on the Picture ID Pilot Project requirement for debtors at 341 Meetings. John expects this program to be rolled out on December 1, 2001.

Next scheduled meeting date of the Attorney Advisory Committee is: **Tuesday, December 11, 2001 at 3:30 p.m.** at the Clerk's Office.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.